

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 OMB-01 AID-05 SY-05 A-01

OPR-02 IO-10 DPW-01 CU-02 PC-01 SCA-01 SCCT-01

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 USSS-00 OC-05

CCO-00 /099 W

----- 130100

O R 201203Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0062

INFO DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 17460

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: LAMPHUN PROTEST

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK AUG 20 FM CHIANG MAI RPTD
FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

CHIANG MAI 0205

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJECT: LAMPHUN PROTEST

REF: CHIANG MAI 0201

1. DEMONSTRATION IN LAMPHUN WHICH BEGAN AS CIVILIAN PROTEST
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AGAINST RELEASE OF NINE ARRESTED MAE WA NINE INCIDENT (SEE

REFTEL) TURNED INTO POLICE PROTEST AGAINST BOTH RELEASE AND PROPOSED LEGISLATION RE POLICE INVESTIGATIVE POWERS WHEN SOME 100 POLICEMEN FROM NAKON SAWAN TRAVELLED TO LAMPHUN AUGUST 16. LAMPHUN POLICE THEN JOINED DEMONSTRATION WHICH NOW INCLUDES APPROX 1600 FELLOW POLICEMEN (INCLUDING 36 BORDER PATROL POLICE) FROM 13 PROVINCES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. PROTESTERS REPORTEDLY HAVE ASKED ALL POLICE IN COUNTRY TO STOP WORK AT 1500 HRS. TODAY, AUG 20. MINISTER OF INTERIOR BUNTAENG IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE DEMONSTRATORS AT 1440 THIS AFTERNOON.

2. MANY SHOPS IN LAMPHUN ARE CLOSED, AND ALL GOLD MERCHANTS IN CHIANG MAI HAVE BEEN LOCKED UP FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS. FALSE RUMOR WHICH SPREAD THROUGH CHIANG MAI THAT POLICE WOULD RELEASE ALL PRISONERS AT 1600 AUG 19 CAUSED EARLY CLOSURE OTHER BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS YESTERDAY, BUT COMMERCE CONTINUED AS USUAL THIS MORNING. BOYSCOUTS ARE DIRECTING TRAFFIC IN CHIANG MAI, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO RASH OF THEFTS OR OUTBREAKS OF CIVIL DISORDER HERE OR IN LAMPHUN. VOLUNTEER DEFENSE CORPS MEMBERS ARE REPORTEDLY PERFORMING POLICE DUTIES IN PHITSANULOK.

3. SIZE OF CROWD IN LAMPHUN IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE, BUT NEWS REPORTS THAT 20,000 HAVE GATHERED ARE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED. AS OF EVENING AUG 19, WE ESTIMATE 5000 AT MOST INCLUDING CURIOUS BYSTANDERS. HARBIN WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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